

Assistant Director for Research and Reports,

4 December 1958

THRU : Chief, Economic Research, ORR
Chief, Materials Division, ORR

Report for the Month of November 1958

1. The JAEIC Economic Working Group completed coordination of its contribution to NIE 11-2-59, The Soviet Atomic Energy Program. The contribution has been forwarded to JAEIC for final approval.

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2. The Division has been advised that [REDACTED] is aware of the timeliness problem with respect to the economic abstract cards and that an effort is being made to improve the reproduction service and thereby reduce the 3-5 month backlog of unprinted cards.

3. China section personnel of the Division are holding a series of discussions with members of other Divisions to exchange ideas on the validity of Communist Chinese claims of accomplishments under the leap forward program.

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4. All branches of the Division submitted preliminary evaluations of the quality and usefulness of the current effort to produce a suitable index of [REDACTED]. A Division position paper on [REDACTED] index is being prepared.

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5. M/FM feels that insufficient timely information is being disseminated in the intelligence community regarding significant developments in the iron and steel industries of the Bloc countries since the demands of the NIS program have precluded the preparation of comprehensive RR's. Material in NIS's is frequently more than a year old when published; contributions to the Current Intelligence Daily or Weekly Review because of space limitations, deals only with a few specific aspects of current interest; NIE's contain little industrial information other than production estimates. To meet the need for basic as well as timely information, M/FM proposes the preparation of annual summary reviews of the status of the industry and of significant developments including such forecasts as can be made. It is proposed that these annual summary reviews be written in three sections -- USSR, European Satellites, and Far East -- and that scheduling of the sections be coordinated with the NIS production schedule.

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